

## Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

FEAE-00 OMB-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 OIC-02 /132 W

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P R 101515Z DEC 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2123

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD MTN

SUBJECT: GROUP AGRICULTURE SCENARIO

REF: MTN GENEVA 9723

1. SUMMARY. KEY DELEGATIONS AGREED GROUP AGRICULTURE  
COULD BE CONVENED AFTERNOON DEC 20. AGREEMENT REACHED  
ON SCENARIO WITH DIFFICULTY. RELATED SCENARIO FOR NTM  
PARENT GROUP ALSO AGREED BUT GROUP DECIDED TO DEFER MEET-  
ING OF PARENT GROUP UNTIL MID-JANURY. ED FLAGGED NEED  
FOR SOME KIND OF CONSULTATIONS IN JANUARY IN ORDER TO  
REACH AN UNDERSTANDING ABOUT HOW GROUP AGRICULTURE SHOULD  
ORGANIZE ITS WORK ON STANDARDS WHEN GROUP AG TAKES UP  
THIS TOPIC AROUND MID-MARCH. NO OBJECTIONS RAISED TO  
AUSTRALIAN SUGGESTION THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN UNDERSTAND-  
ING THAT GROUP AGRICULTURE SHOULD CONVENE NO LATER THAN  
END OF MARCH 1977 TO TAKE UP OTHER SUBJECTS ON ITS  
WORK PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. INFORMAL GROUP OF KEY DELS REACHED UNDERSTANDINGS

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SUMMARIZED ABOVE AT MEETING CHAIRED BY PATTERSON ON

DEC 9. DISCUSSION ABOUT REPORTING PROCEDURES WAS DIFFICULT DUE TO ARGENTINE CIRCULATION OF A PROPOSED REWRITE OF ENTIRE SCENARIO ON REPORTING PROCEDURES. FACT THAT MEETING TOOK PLACE IN PATTERSON'S OFFICE WHERE TRANSLATION FACILITIES NOT AVAILABLE ADDED TO DIFFICULTY OF UNDERSTANDING WHAT AMBASSADOR MARTINEZ WAS DRIVING AT. GROUP FINALLY PREVAILED UPON MARTINEZ TO WITHDRAW HIS COMPLETE REDRAFT AND CONTENT HIMSELF WITH MINOR CHANGES IN US-EC VERSION.

3. TEXT OF SCENARIO ON REPORTING PROCEDURES NOW READS IN ITS ENTIRELY AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN QUOTE

THE PROCEDURES WHICH DO NOT ALTER OR MODIFY THE UNDERTAKINGS OF MTN/AG/4 WOULD CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING THREE POINTS:

(I) DELEGATIONS HAVING PARTICIPATED IN CONSULTATIONS SHOULD ENDEAVOR, IN ADVANCE OF THE NEXT MEETING, TO SEND TO THE SECRETARIAT SUMMARY NOTES WITH RESPECT TO THE CONSULTATIONS IN WHICH THEY HAD PARTICIPATED; THE SECRETARIAT WOULD ASSEMBLE AND DISTRIBUTE THESE SUMMARIES IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE DECISION ENVISAGED IN POINT (II) CONCERNING THE FURTHER WORK OF THE GROUP. THE REPORT MAY BE UNILATERAL OR JOINTLY AGREED. WRITTEN REPORTS WOULD BE PROMPTLY CIRCULATED BY THE SECRETARIAT TO THE APPROPRIATE GROUP AGRICULTURE DOCUMENT SERIES AND CIRCULATED TO ALL GROUPS.

(II) AT THE EARLIEST MEETING OF GROUP AGRICULTURE FOLLOWING CIRCULATION OF THE REPORTS, THE CHAIRMAN WOULD DRAW ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT REPORTS ON BILATERAL OR PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ARE BEFORE THE GROUP AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA (B) OF MTN/AG/4, IT IS OPEN TO THE GROUP TO CONSIDER HOW TO PURSUE ITS WORK. AT THE SAME TIME, THE CHAIRMAN WOULD INDICATE ACTION TAKEN PURSUANT TO PARA 3(B) AND (C) OF MTN/AG/4.

(III) THE CHAIRMAN'S SUMMING-UP OF THE MEETING RECORDS THE FACT THAT GROUP AGRICULTURE HAD THESE REPORTS BEFORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITS PLUS COMMENTS, IF ANY, MADE IN GROUP AGRICULTURE. END QUOTE.

4. TRIF. PROLONGED DISCUSSION ALMOST LED TO DISAPPEARANCE OF THIS ITEM, BUT IN THE END THE LANGUAGE OF THE SCENARIO FOR BOTH GROUP AGRICULTURE AND NTM PARENT GROUP WAS ACCEPTED WITHOUT MODIFICATION. THERE WAS, HOWEVER, A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE LANGUAGE DOES NOT COMMIT

ANYONE TO SUPPORT THE AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL IN THE NTM PARENT GROUP; ALL THAT IS BEING DONE IS TO UNBLOCK THE PROCEDURAL PROBLEM SO THAT IF AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED IN THE PARENT GROUP TO SUPPLEMENT THE TRIF (AND FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WILL BE NEEDED IN THE PARENT GROUP TO DECIDE HOW THIS IS TO BE DONE), THE TRIF SUPPLEMENT WOULD COVER ALL PRODUCTS.

5. STANDARDS. U.S. AND EC WERE UNWILLING TO ACCEPT A NEW TEXT SUBMITTED BY ARGENTINA ("PROGRESS ON WORK OF THE RESPECTIVE SUBGROUP AND APPLICABILITY OF GENERAL OR PARTICULAR PROVISIONS ON STANDARDIZATION TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS"), BUT BECAUSE AMBASSADOR MARTINEZ INSISTED THAT THERE HAD TO BE SOME LINK BACK TO WORDING ABOUT HEALTH AND SANITARY REGULATIONS WHICH HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN USED IN ALL RECORDS OF NTM PARENT GROUP AND SUBGROUP ON STANDARDS WHENEVER THE QUESTION OF GROUP AGRICULTURE EXAMINATION AROSE (SEE, FOR EXAMPLE, MTN/NTM/1, MTN/NTM/17, PARA 9, AND MTN/AG/W/10), THE GROUP AGREED TO REFORMULATE THE AGENDA ITEM TO READ AS FOLLOWS: "TO REVIEW THE APPLICABILITY OF THE DRAFT STANDARDS CODE TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AS SUGGESTED IN MTN/NTM/17."

6. NO AMENDMENTS WERE MADE TO PROPOSED SCENARIO WITH RESPECT TO NON-TARIFF MEASURES NOT DEALT WITH MULTILATERALLY.

7. GROUP AGREED THAT GROUP AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE CONVENED DEC 20. IT WAS CONSIDERED PREFERABLE TO DEFER NTM PARENT GROUP UNTIL MID-JANUARY.

8. EC (LUYTEN) NOTED GROUP HAD AGREED EARLIER IN THE WEEK (REFTEL) THAT GROUP AGRICULTURE SHOULD TAKE UP QUESTION OF STANDARDS AROUND MID-MARCH WHEN STANDARDS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUBGROUP WOULD BE MEETING. HE SUGGESTED THERE MIGHT BE NEED FOR AN EARLIER "ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING," PERHAPS IN JANUARY, TO REACH AN UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE METHOD OF WORK ON STANDARDS TO BE PURSUED BY GROUP AGRICULTURE, E.G., WAS THERE A CONSENSUS THAT THE DRAFT CODE SHOULD BE TAKEN UP IN GROUP AGRICULTURE PARAGRAPH BY PARAGRAPH, SHOULD DELEGATIONS BE INVITED TO SUBMIT PAPERS OR PROPOSALS OR QUESTIONS ABOUT AGRICULTURAL STANDARDS, OR WHAT? LUYTEN POSED THIS AS SIMPLY A DESIRE TO AVOID CONFUSION AT FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING IF SOME EXPERTS ARRIVED EXPECTING TO TAKE UP THE CODE PARAGRAPH BY PARAGRAPH BUT OTHERS CAME WITH DIFFERENT IDEAS. WE SAID WE WISHED TO REFLECT ON THIS IDEA. AFTER GROUP ADJOURNED WE PRIVATELY TOLD LUYTEN WE THOUGHT HIS SUGGESTIONS MIGHT BE MORE EASILY HANDLED AT AN INFORMAL MEETING OF

KEY DELEGATIONS SOMETIME IN JANUARY RATHER THAN CONVENING A FULL-FLEDGED MEETING OF GROUP AGRICULTURE ON YET ANOTHER "ORGANIZATIONAL" ISSUE. LUYTEN WAS PERSONALLY RECEPTIVE TO THIS IDEA.

9. AUSTRALIA, NOTING THAT THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING OF GROUP AGRICULTURE WAS EXPECTED TO BE CONFINED TO THE QUESTION OF STANDARDS AROUND MID-MARCH, PRESSED FOR AN UNDESANDING THAT THERE SHOULD BE ANOTHER MEETING OF GROUP AGRICULTURE TO TAKE UP BROADER QUESTIONS OF MTN NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE. AUSTRALIAN DEL ASKS ASAN UNDERSTANDING THAT GROUP AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE CONVENED FOR THIS PURPOSE NO LATER THAN THE END OF MARCH 1977. THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS. CULBERT

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGRICULTURE, TRADE, PLANNING MEETINGS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976MTNGE09840  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760456-1015  
**From:** MTN GENEVA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761254/aaaabuqj.tel  
**Line Count:** 183  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION STR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 MTN GENEVA 9723  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GROUP AGRICULTURE SCENARIO  
**TAGS:** ETRD, MTN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006